



Maryland Influenza Surveillance Report

Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration
Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response

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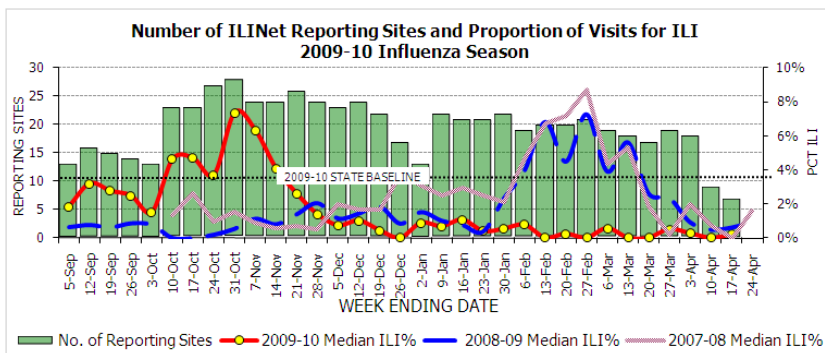
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Synopsis

During week 15, influenza activity in Maryland reached the lowest level of activity, "No Activity", for the first time since November 2008. This was because no lab-confirmed cases were reported from the DHMH Laboratories Administration, no outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH, and the proportion of visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was below baseline. **This does not mean that there is no more flu out in the community.** The activity level indicates that influenza was below a level detectable by our current surveillance systems, keeping in mind that not everyone who is infected has contact with a surveillance component.

Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network

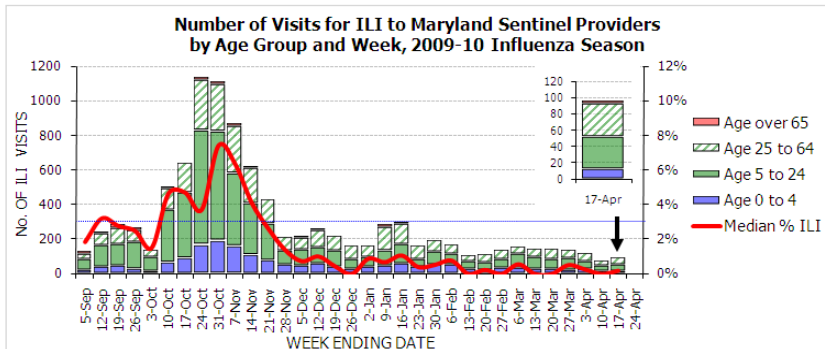
Seven sentinel providers reported a median proportion of visits for ILI of 0.2% for week 15. This is **below** the state-wide flu season baseline of 2.8% and below the proportion seen at this time last year. A total of 96 persons with ILI visited the seven sentinel providers. For more information about the ILINet Surveillance Network, visit: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/fluwatch>



The median proportion of visits to providers was below baseline last week, continuing the trend from the past 21 weeks.

Influenza Activity Level in Maryland: NO ACTIVITY

Predominant influenza strain in Maryland during week 15: No strains were identified this week.



Most of the persons who sought care at ILINet sites were between the ages of 25 and 64.

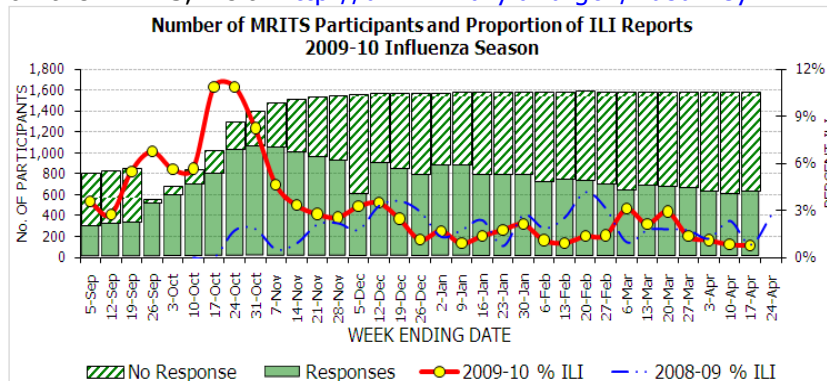
Join the MRITS fan page on Facebook at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mritsfb>



Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS)

A total of 1,581 Maryland residents were enrolled in the system as of April 17, 2010. Of these, 638 (40%) responded to the weekly survey. Of those that responded, 5 (0.8%) reported flu-like symptoms. For more information on the MRITS, visit: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flusurvey>



The proportion of participants reporting influenza-like illness decreased last week, and it is slightly below the proportion observed last year at this time.

Flu Type	No. of Positives	% of Total
Type A	9,045	94%
Type B	584	6%
Untyped ²	71	<1%
TOTAL	9,700	100%

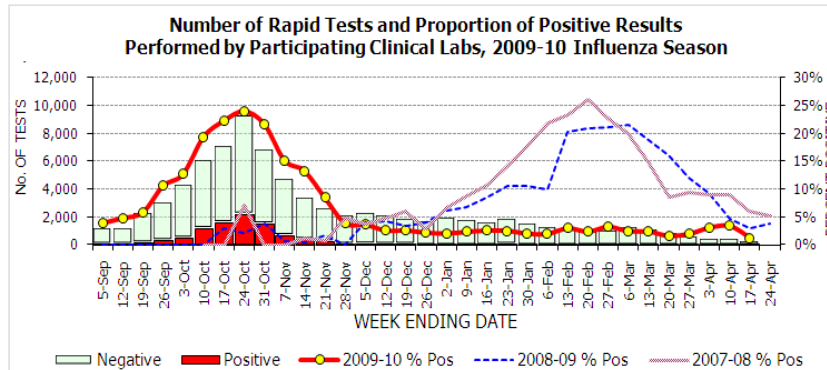
Number of positive rapid influenza tests by virus type, 2009-10 influenza season

Notes:

- 1 Rapid influenza tests are less accurate when the prevalence of influenza is low.
- 2 Certain rapid influenza test kits do not differentiate between type A and type B viruses

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Surveillance

A total of 17 clinical laboratories reported 238 rapid influenza tests performed last week. Of those tests, 3 (1.3%) were positive, lower than the previous week (3.4%). All three of the positive rapid tests were type B influenza.^{1, 2}



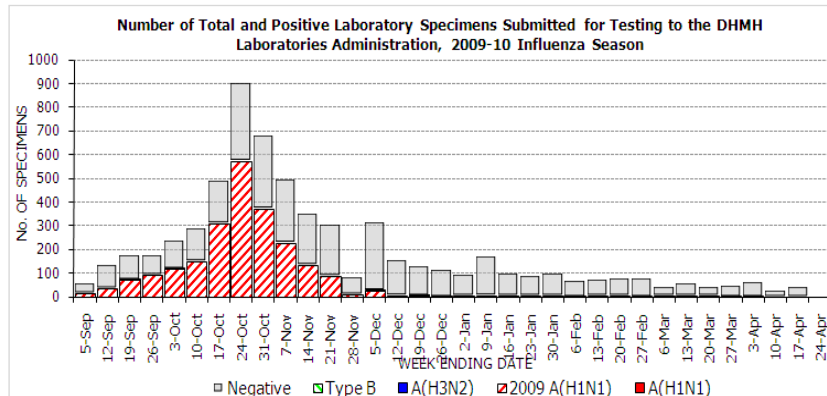
The total number of tests performed and the proportion of those that are positive have stabilized at a low level.

DHMH Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

Last week, a total of 41 specimens were submitted to the DHMH Lab for influenza testing. None tested positive for influenza by PCR. More information at:

<http://dhmh.state.md.us/labs/>

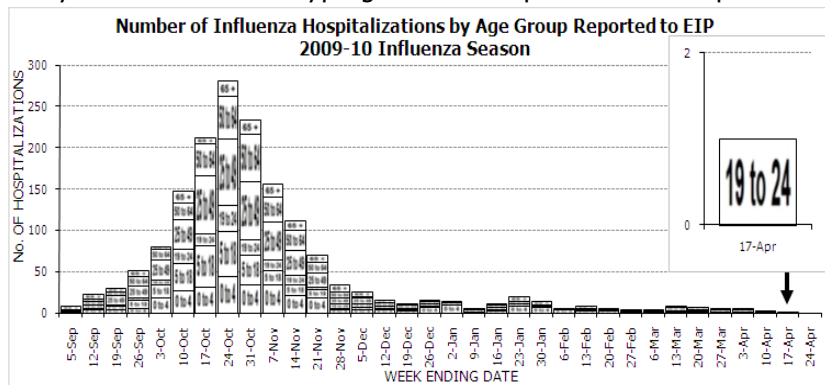
Flu Strain	No. of PCR+ Specimens	% of Total
Type A(H1N1)	0	0%
Type A 2009 (H1N1)	2,282	98.4%
Type A(H3N2)	4	0.2%
Type B	3	0.1%
Equivocal	29	1.3%
TOTAL	2,318	100%



For the first time in several months, none of the specimens tested at the DHMH Lab were reported positive for influenza.

Emerging Infections Program Flu Hospitalization Surveillance

During Week 15, **one person was reported hospitalized due to influenza** in Maryland. Further subtyping was not reported on this patient's influenza test.



For information on flu surveillance in states bordering Maryland, visit:

Delaware -
<http://bit.ly/9Zkp3>

D.C. -
<http://bit.ly/PNrvVo>

Pennsylvania -
<http://bit.ly/gqgRF>

Virginia -
<http://bit.ly/22C4g>

West Virginia -
<http://bit.ly/vtodo>

United States flu info, visit:

<http://cdc.gov/flu>

Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season (9/22/09 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):

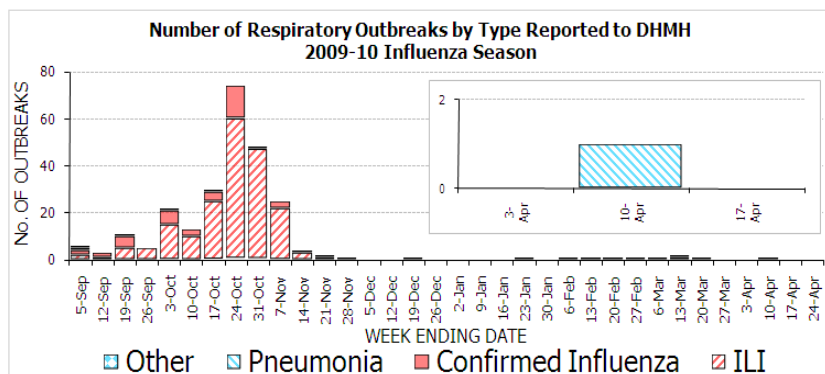
<http://bit.ly/48LOI4>

World Health Organization flu information at:

<http://bit.ly/b37z1>

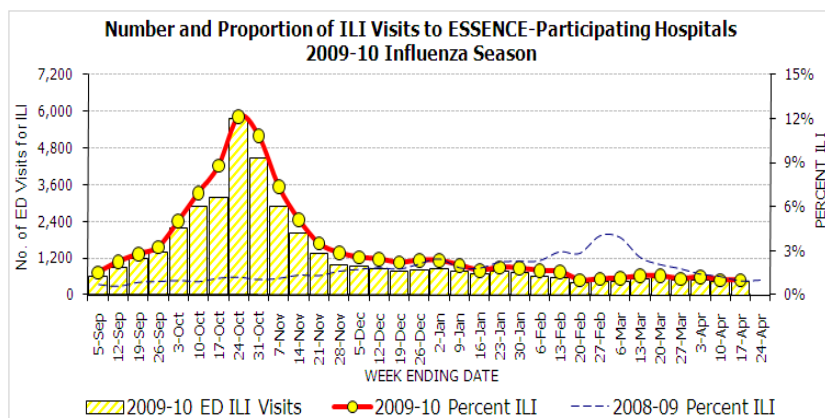
Reports of Outbreaks in Institutional Settings

No outbreaks of influenza-like illness or influenza were reported to DHMH during week 15. To date, a total of 255 outbreaks of respiratory disease have been reported to DHMH this influenza season.



Emergency Department ILI Reports (ESSENCE)

Last week, a total of 43,007 people visited Maryland emergency departments that participate in ESSENCE. Of those, **428 (1%) visits were for flu-like illness**. This proportion is similar to last week's. ESSENCE is a system monitored by the Office of Preparedness and Response. (<http://bioterrorism.dhmd.state.md.us>)



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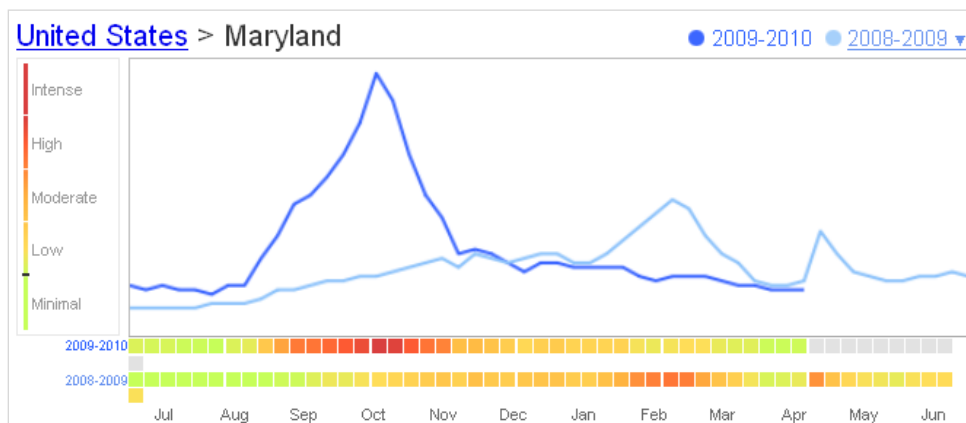
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Visit us on the web:

<http://dhhm.maryland.gov>

Google Flu Trends & Other Flu Tracking Reports

Google Flu Trends, which monitors on-line queries for flu-related terms, indicates that Maryland's flu activity is "**low**". According to this information, the levels of flu activity are lower than those observed at this time last year. (<http://google.org/flutrends>)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Weekly Flu Update (www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly)

Synopsis: During week 15 (April 11-17, 2010), influenza activity decreased in the U.S.

- 37 (2.1%) specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza.
- All 20 subtyped influenza A viruses were 2009 influenza A (H1N1).
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was at the epidemic threshold.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1%, which is below the national baseline of 2.3%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels.
- No states reported widespread or regional influenza activity. Four states reported local influenza activity. The District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and 31 states reported sporadic influenza activity. Fourteen states reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and one state did not report.

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week ending April 17, 2010 - Week 15

